Basic Principles of Access Control

What is Access Control?
Wikipedia defines it as, The selective restriction of access to a place or other resource.

Access control systems are electronic security solutions that are installed to manage the movement of people into, around and out of buildings.

In a commercial application it is regularly used to improve workplace safety for employees, customers and visitors.

In a domestic application, you can easily deter, detect and record access to your premises.

Main Function of Access Control
The main functions of an Access Control System is to monitor the locations of individuals within a building, control where individuals are able to gain access and manage individual user permissions to ensure that access is granted to the authorised individual to the appropriate areas at the correct times.

Harris Security Installations offers a full range of access control products to provide a complete solution designed and tailored to address all our customer's needs.

Our range varies from standalone external access control keypads to multi access controls.

A basic system can have the following components:

- Single door control
- Fully sealed exterior quality proximity reader
- Request to exit facility
- Emergency break glass facility
- Door open to long facility
- Local alarm output
- Voltage or volt free contacts to accommodate most locking mechanisms
- Proximity tags, which will operate the intruder alarm system.
- Full standby battery backup in the event of power failure
- Full time and date recorded activity log.

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The advantage of using the range of integrated access control across your premises is that your entire building's security measures are controlled by one system. This system can provide a fully recorded audit trail of all your security requirements, without having different access control points or user fobs. Every door control unit has a standby facility, which means in the event of a building power failure, the door will continue to work providing total security.

Whatever the customer's requirement, from simple one door entry systems to multi-site, multi –user integrated systems, harris Security Installations can provide detailed specifications to meet whatever the need is. We can provide not only increased personal security, but also timekeeping and attendance records for employers, with the added benefit of interfacing with any building fire alarm system. This provides a vital snapshot of exactly who is in the building at any specific time, information, which is vital for a fire roll call, in multi staff scenarios where in the event of an emergency, accurate records are imperative in saving lives.

Selecting the correct technology is critical to the operation of the access control system and to providing the desired level of security. Its important to balance the convenience with the security.

Smartcard technology is rapidly becoming the technology of choice as smartcards are extending the use of access control credentials beyond physical access. Using smartcards, one card can be used to gain access to premises, to securely sign onto a PC and to purchase goods (cashless vending).

Biometric technology is useful as biometric factors such as fingerprints are very difficult to replicate or share. As such, inclusion of biometric technology into an access control solution will help to increase system security.